AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims

1. (Currently amended) ~~Use of~~ A method of regulating an ovarian follicular reserve comprising administering to a patient a medicament comprising somatostatin or one of its agonist analogues ~~for preparing a medicament intended to regulate the ovarian follicular reserve, and in particular to reduce the depletion of the ovarian follicular reserve over time, in non-menopausal women~~.

2. (Currently amended) ~~Use according to~~ The method of claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the medicament comprises somatostatin ~~is used for preparing the medicament~~.

3. (Currently amended) ~~Use according to~~ The method of claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the medicament comprises a somatostatin agonist analogue ~~is used for preparing of the medicament~~.

4. (Currently amended) ~~Use according to~~ The method of claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the somatostatin agonist analogue is a compound of general formula **(I)**

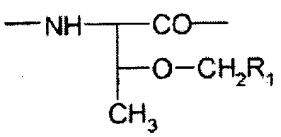
cyclo[A – Zza - (D/L)Trp - Lys - X_1 - X_2] **(I)**

1 2 3 4 5 6

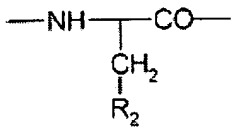
~~1 2 3 4 5 6~~

in which:

X_1 is a radical of formula (a) or (b)



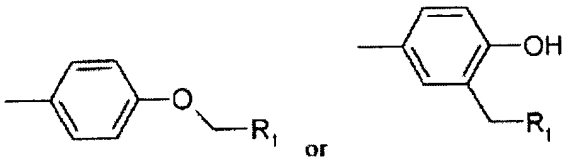
(a)



(b)

R_1 independently ~~representing at each time that it occurs~~ represents an optionally substituted phenyl radical in which the optional substituents are independently ~~chosen from~~ a halogen atom, ~~and the~~ methyl, ethyl, methoxy, ~~and~~ or ethoxy radicals,

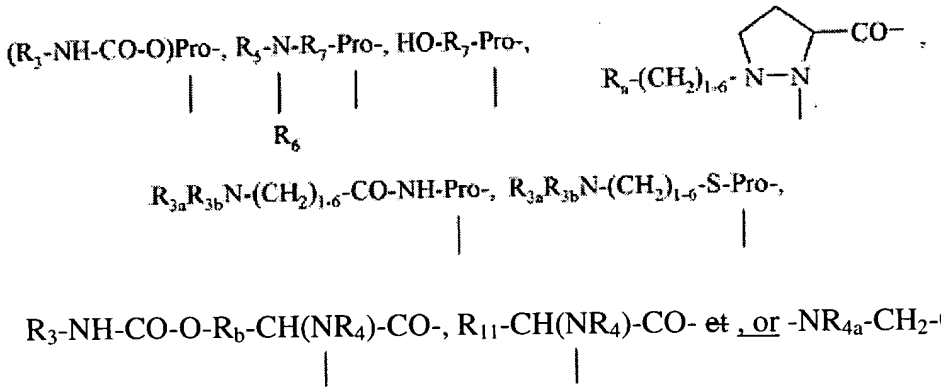
R_1 ~~representing~~ represents $-Z_1-CH_2-R_1$, $-CH_2-CO-O-CH_2-R_1$,



Z_1 ~~being~~ is O or S;

X_2 is an α-amino acid ~~having~~ comprising an aromatic residue on ~~the~~ a side chain C_a, or an amino acid unit ~~chosen from~~ including Dab, Dpr, Dpm, His, (Bzl)HyPro, thienyl-Ala, cyclohexyl-Ala ~~and~~ or t-butyl-Ala;

A is a divalent residue ~~chosen from~~ including Pro,



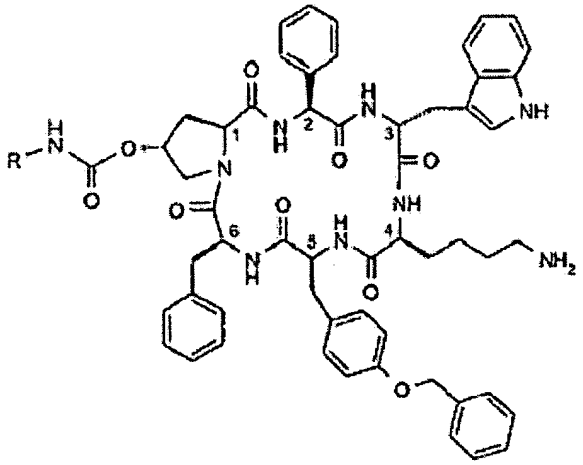
R_3 is NR_8R_9-C_{2-6} alkylene, guanidino-C_{2-6} alkylene or C_{2-6} alkylene-COOH, R_{3a} is H, C_{1-4}alkyl or ~~has, independently, one of the meanings given for~~ R_3, R_{3b} is H or C_1-$_4$ alkyl, R_a is OH or NR_5R_6, R_b is $-(CH_2)_{1-3}$ or $-CH(CH_3)-$, R_4 is H or CH_3, R_{4a} is benzyl optionally substituted on the aromatic ring, each of R_5 and R_6 is independently H, C_{1-4} alkyl, ω-amino-C_{1-4} alkylene, ω-hydroxy-C_{1-4} alkylene or acyl, R_7 is a direct bond or C_{1-6} alkylene, each of R_8 and R_9 is independently H, C_{1-4} alkyl, ω-hydroxy-C_{2-4} alkylene, acyl or

CH_2OH-$(CHOH)_c$-CH_2 in which c is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4, or R_8 and R_9 form together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached a heterocyclic group which can include an additional heteroatom, and R_{11} is benzyl optionally substituted on the aromatic ring, -$(CH_2)_{1-3}$-OH, CH_3-CH(OH)- or -$(CH_2)_{1-5}$-NR_5R_6, and ZZ_a is a natural or unnatural α-amino acid unit;

~~it being understood that~~ wherein X_1, X_2 and Lys each have the configuration L;

or is a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or protected form of a compound of general formula **(I)**, or combinations thereof.

5. (Currently amended) ~~Use according to~~ The method of claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the somatostatin agonist analogue is a compound of general formula **(II)**



(II)

~~in which~~ wherein R is $NR_{10}R_{11}$-C_{2-6} alkylene or guanidine-C_{2-6} alkylene, and each of R_{10} and R_{11} is independently H or C_{1-4} alkyl

or is a pharmaceutically acceptable salts or a protected form of a compound of general formula **(II)** , or combinations thereof.

6. (Currently amended) ~~Use according to~~ The method of claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the somatostatin agonist analogue includes ~~is chosen from the group comprising~~ lanreotide, octreotide, vapreotide, SOM 230, MK678, BIM-23190, BIM-

23197, BIM-23268, PTR-3173, TT-232, the peptide of formula c[Tic-Tyr-DTrp-Lys-Abu-Phe], the KE 108 peptide of formula Tyr^0-(cyclo-D-Dab-Arg-Phe-Phe-D-Trp-Lys—Thr-Phe) ~~and~~ or their pharmaceutically acceptable salts ~~and~~ or protected forms, or combinations thereof .

7. (Currently amended) ~~Use according to~~ The method of claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the somatostatin agonist analogue is lanreotide or one of its pharmaceutically acceptable salts.

8. (Currently amended) ~~Use according to one~~ The method of claims 1 ~~to 7~~, ~~characterized in that~~ comprising administering the medicament ~~is intended to be administered~~ to a woman at risk of early menopause.

9. (Currently amended) ~~Use according to one~~ The method of claims 1 ~~to 7~~, ~~characterized in that~~ comprising administering the medicament ~~is intended to be administered~~ to a woman who has an X chromosome microdeletion.

10. (Currently amended) ~~Use according to one~~ The method of claims 1 ~~to 7~~, ~~characterized in that~~ comprising administering the medicament ~~is intended to be administered~~ to a woman who has polycystic ovaries.

11. (Currently amended) ~~Use according to one~~ The method of claims 1 ~~to 7~~, ~~characterized in that~~ comprising administering the medicament ~~is intended to be administered~~ to a woman who is about to have, is currently having or has had chemotherapy or irradiation.

12. (Currently amended) ~~Use of~~ A method of determining the presence or absence of an effect of acceleration of follicle growth caused by a compound comprising conducting a toxicology test of said compound with somatostatin or one of its agonist analogues ~~in toxicology tests relating to another compound in order to determine the presence or the absence of an effect of acceleration of follicle growth caused by said other compound~~.

13. (Currently amended) ~~Use of~~ A method of accelerating the start of growth of quiescent follicles in non-menopausal women comprising administering to a patient a

medicament comprising a somatostatin antagonist analogue ~~for preparing a medicament intended to accelerate the start of growth of the quiescent follicles in non menopausal women~~.

14. (Currently amended) ~~Use according to~~ The method of claim 13, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the somatostatin antagonist analogue includes ~~is chosen from~~ the peptides of general formula **(III)**

$$A^1\text{-cyclo}\{\text{D-Cys-}A^2\text{-D-Trp-}A^3\text{-}A^4\text{-Cys}\}\text{-}A^5\text{-}Y^1$$

(III)

in which:

A^1 is an optionally substituted aromatic α-amino acid;

A^2 is an optionally substituted aromatic α-amino acid;

A^3 is Dab, Dap, Lys or Orn;

A^4 is β-Hydroxyvaline, Ser, Hser, or Thr;

A^5 is an optionally substituted aromatic D- or L- α-amino acid; and

Y^1 is OR, NH_2 or NHR^1, R^1 ~~being~~ is (C_{1-6})alkyl;

each ~~optionally substituted~~ aromatic α-amino acid being optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently ~~chosen from the group comprising~~ includes a halogen atom, ~~and the groups~~ NO_2, OH, CN, (C_{1-6})_alkyl, (C_{2-6})_alkenyl, (C_{2-6})_alkynyl, (C_{1-6}) alkoxy, Bzl, O-Bzl ~~and~~ or NR^9R^{10}, R^9 and R^{10} are each ~~being~~ independently H, O, or (C_{1-6}) alkyl; and

each nitrogen atom with a peptide amide bond and the amino group of A^1 ~~being~~ are optionally substituted with a methyl group, ~~it being understood~~ with the proviso that there is at least one ~~such~~ said methyl group in a peptide of general formula **(III)**;

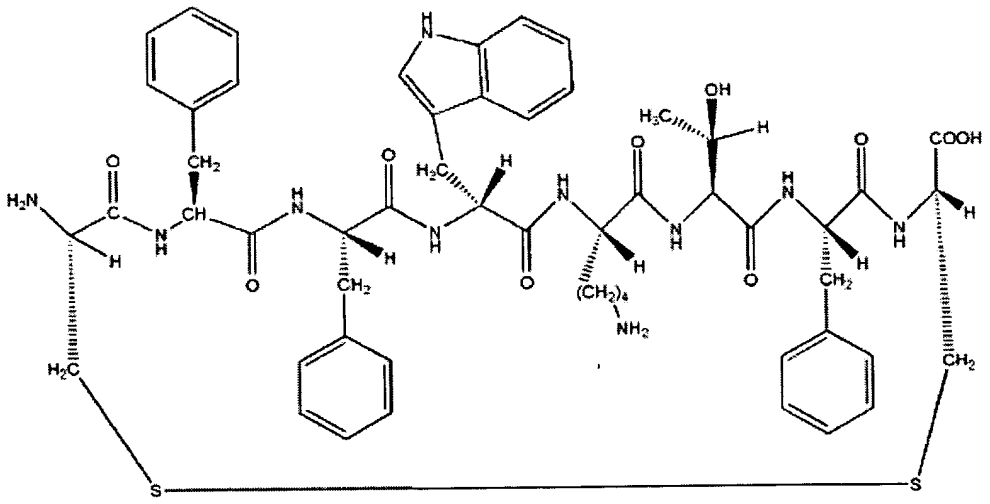
~~and~~ the pharmaceutically acceptable salts ~~and~~ or protected forms of ~~such~~ said peptides , or combinations thereof.

15. (Currently amended) ~~Use according to~~ The method of claim 13, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the somatostatin antagonist analogue includes ~~is chosen from the group comprising~~:

- the following peptides:

- Cpa-cyclo[D-Cys- Pal-D- Trp-N-Me-Lys- Thr-Cys]-D-Trp-NH_2;
- Cpa-cyclo[D-Cys- Tyr-D-Trp- N-Me-Lys-Thr-Cys]-Nal-NH_2;
- Cpa-cyclo[D-Cys-Pal-D- Trp- N-Me-Lys-Thr-Cys]- Nal-NH_2;

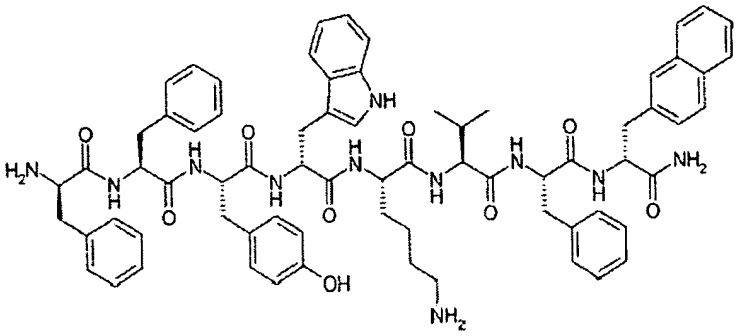
- the peptide acetyl-D-His-D-Phe-D-Ile-D-Arg-D-Trp-D-Phe-NH_2 ~~known by the~~ (code name AC-178,335);
- the octapeptide of the following structure ~~known by the~~ (code name ODN-8);



ODN-8

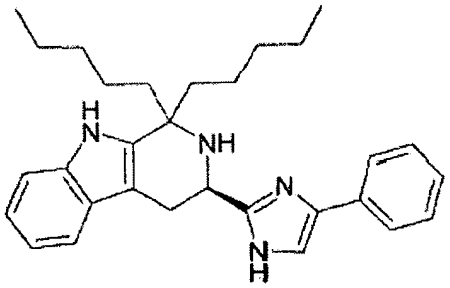
- the peptide Cpa-cyclo[D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys]Cpa-amide ~~known by the~~ (code name SB-710411);

- the peptide of the following structure ~~known by the~~ (code name BIM-23056);



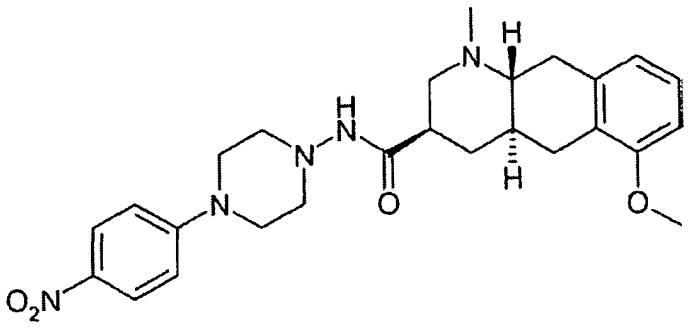
BIM 23056

- the compound of the following structure ~~known by the~~ (code name BN-81674);



BN-81674

- the compound of the following structure ~~known by the~~ (code name SRA-880);



SRA-880

~~and~~ or their pharmaceutically acceptable salts ~~and~~ or protected forms, or combinations thereof.

16. (Currently amended) A method of supporting *in vitro* follicle development comprising employing ~~Use of~~ a somatostatin antagonist analogue ~~in order to support *in vitro* follicle development~~.

17. (Currently amended) ~~Use of~~ A method of determining the presence or absence of an effect of slowing of follicle growth caused by a compound comprising conducting a toxicology test of said compound with a somatostatin antagonist analogue ~~in toxicology tests relating to another compound in order to determine the presence or the absence of an effect of slowing the follicle growth caused by said other compound~~.

18. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the method reduces the depletion of the ovarian follicular reserve over time in non-menopausal women.